

RIVER CITY NEWS



TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, Spring 2017

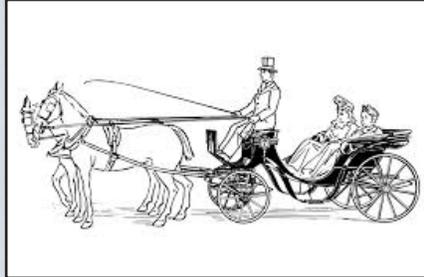
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY ELMWOOD-ST. JOSEPH MUNICIPAL CEMETERY

In 1867, a group of citizens formed the Mason City Cemetery Association to establish a proper burial ground for the growing settlement which was to become Mason City. Starting with a 5-acre tract of land, the cemetery has grown to 70 acres with over 20,000 people laid to rest there.

A celebration will be held on Saturday, July 15th to commemorate the cemetery's 150 years of service to the community. The event

will provide family activities featuring horse drawn carriage rides, an old fashioned picnic lunch, tours of the historic cemetery grounds on a horse drawn wagon, a headstone hunt, gravestone art walking tours, gravestone preservation education and a dedication program. Plan to come and enjoy a day in the years gone by and to honor our past. More details to follow.

This year's annual Cemetery History Walk will highlight milestones and interesting stories found in the history of the cemetery through people who developed and cared for the cemetery throughout the years. Portrayals will include members of the Board of Trustees, women from the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Society and sextons. Watch for our unique entry in the North Iowa Band Festival Parade on May 27th!



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Elmwood Cemetery.....	1
Fire Dept.'S Explorer Program.....	1
Volunteer Mason City.....	1
Fire Dept. EMS Week.....	2
Engineering Projects.....	2
Mason City Residents.....	2
Build A Better World.....	3
Elmwood Cemetery Improvements...3	
Bike To A Healthier Mason City.....	3
Community Gardens.....	3
New Faces.....	4
City Council Goals.....	4
Calendar Of Events.....	4

THE MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S EXPLORER PROGRAM...



will be signing up new members this fall. If you are a young adult aged 14-20 and think you're ready to better yourself, have fun, experience things you have never experienced, and meet new people...then come join us here at the Mason City Fire Department's Explorer Post. We meet every other Wednesday evening and some Saturdays for our training. More information regarding the program and how to become an Explorer can be found on the Fire Department's website (www.masoncity.net) or visit us on Facebook (Mason City Fire Department Explorer's).

Volunteer Mason City

City of MASON CITY IOWA

The weather is warming up and another crazy Iowa winter is hopefully in the books! There's nothing like the sweet smell of spring. Spring season also means many more volunteer opportunities. We have opportunities for all ages whether you're by yourself, with your family or a group, we have plenty of opportunities.

One of our programs is Park Watch. Park Watch is a great program that helps make sure our parks are being used the correct way. This program partners volunteers and the Police Department to work together to maintain positive behavior in our parks. Help keep the parks a clean and safe

place in Mason City!

A program that is great for families, businesses, and groups is our Adopt-A-Street, Adopt-A-Lot, or Adopt A Section programs. After the winter months, different areas in Mason City are full of trash or other kinds of litter. Grab some friends, co-workers, or family members and come help brighten up Mason City!

You might notice in May all of the beautiful flower beds and gardens being planted near streets, in parks and downtown locations. These flowers come from our Beautification Program. This program consists of approximately 85 flower beds throughout Mason City that volunteers plant in May and maintain through the summer and into the fall.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with all of our programs! If you would like to participate, please call Drew Versteegen at 421-3372 or email dversteegen@masoncity.net

RIVER CITY NEWS

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please contact:
City Administrator's office
10 1st Street NW
Mason City, IA 50401
(641) 421-2701 (phone)
(641) 424-7189 (fax)
cityinformation@masoncity.net

ENGINEERING PROJECTS

The Mason City Engineering Department prepared plans and specifications for several projects to be completed in 2017. Three of the planned projects include Street Rehabilitation, Street Panel & Curb Replacement and Sidewalk Replacement Programs.

The Street Rehabilitation Program targets sections of streets and roadways throughout the city that are in need of preservation to extend the life of the pavement for the next several years. The program includes repair and reconstruction of city utilities, including water, and sanitary and storm sewer structures. Following repair of the utilities, street patching and curb repair, the existing street is milled where necessary, then covered with Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) as a final operation. Streets included in the Street Rehabilitation Program for 2017 are South Tennessee Avenue from 4th Street SW to Maple Drive, South Garfield Avenue from 10th Street SW to 6th Street SW, 22nd Street SE from Massachusetts Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue and 28th Street SW from Washington Avenue to Jefferson Avenue.

The Street Panel & Curb Replacement Program covers a large area with many locations throughout the city. The program's purpose is to rehabilitate street pavement by full depth patching areas that are severely damaged or deteriorating. The existing damaged pavement is removed and replaced to re-establish grade and drainage, which improve safety and extends the longevity of the street.

The Sidewalk Program addresses the replacement of damaged and non-compliant sidewalks. This is a cooperative program between the city and the residents within the sidewalk program area, for the purpose of improving pedestrian travel in the neighborhoods.

The three programs address pedestrian sidewalk ramp replacement and the installation of detectable warning panels. The improvements, adjustments and modifications are designed to meet the required ADA regulations which provides a safe path for the pedestrian transitioning from the sidewalk to the street crossing.

MASON CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS EMS STRONG – ALWAYS IN SERVICE

National EMS week is May 21-27! The Mason City Fire Department wants to make sure that citizens know that we are EMS strong and always in service. MCFD has proudly been providing ambulance services to citizens since June of 2004 and are a part of the emergency medical services chain which includes the 911 dispatchers, Law Enforcement officers, Firefighters, and health care professionals who are an important part of EMS services. Want to do something for these men and women who save lives every day? Pull to the right when you hear sirens or you see lights. Some of the most dangerous times are going to and from emergency scenes. For more information and hints on pulling to the right, please visit the Fire Department's website (www.masoncity.net).



Dear Mason City Residents,

Rarely do I write in our City Newsletter. Since I provide regular public reports to the City Council and our community detailing projects and other current work occurring in Mason City, I prefer not to take precious space away from other important articles. However, I decided on this occasion, my 10th Anniversary as your City Administrator, to express a few words of gratitude.

My first thank you goes to the City Council members that hired me a decade ago. None of the current council members were on the City Council when I was hired in 2007. I was thrilled to be provided the opportunity to be the City Administrator of the 16th largest city in the state. I have worked with some amazing council members over the last ten years and have learned something from all of them. Currently, Mayor Eric Bookmeyer and Council Members John Lee, Travis Hickey, Brett Schoneman, Janet Solberg, Bill Schickel, and

Paul Adams are providing steadfast guidance during this critical time of our community. I also enjoyed working with past Council Members Don Nelson, Jeff Marsters, Al Zook, John Jaszewski, Max Weaver, Scott Tornquist, Steve Tynan, Jean Marinos, Alex Kuhn and former Mayor Roger Bang. They are all dedicated servants to the community that spend or spent many hours working with citizens to make our community better. We might not have always agreed with each other's position, but I respect them for their service.

The next group I would like to thank is the Department Directors and staff of Mason City. They are dedicated public employees that work countless hours to improve our community. The Department Directors and the employees that work in every department make what goals and priorities that are developed each year by the City Council a reality. Without their efforts and hard work, none of these things happen. I truly appreciate their support. We have been through some challenging situations, but we have worked through them to be successful.

I am also thankful for the citizens of this community, from members of boards and commissions, to people that have just stopped by my office to get answers to their questions or file a complaint. It has been a privilege to meet you and assist you in any way I can. Some conversations are not easy to have; I have a responsibility to do what is best for the City of Mason City, yet also to be fair to you. Again, I appreciate the opportunity to serve and interact with you.

These last ten years have seen many challenges and successes. Recovering from the flood of 2008 was a major challenge for our community. The successful implementation of the Vision Iowa projects with our partners was a successful highlight during this decade. We have continued to strengthen our community with economic development projects and investments in our infrastructure each year. We continue to move toward improving the quality of life in our community with trail completions and the successful implementation of the Blue Zones Projects initiative. The future looks bright for Mason City to accomplish much over the next five years. The finances of the City are sound. We are poised for success and growth in the near future.

I wanted to work as a public servant at the local level since my years in graduate college, over 27 years ago. I felt it was going to give me the best chance to impact people's lives in a positive way. I still have that same desire and strive to make an impact with my work in Mason City and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to do so. I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Very Sincerely,
Brent Trout

MASON CITY TO JOIN CITIES NATIONWIDE FOR THE 34TH ANNUAL 'AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME'

Tuesday, August 1, 2017, marks the 34th Anniversary for the Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. Starting at 5:00 p.m. residents are encouraged to show solidarity by turning on porch lights and heading to the All Seasons building at the North Iowa Event Center for the free fun-packed family affair.

A variety of activities will be held including a kid power pedal tractor pull event, bounce houses and balloon creations as well as displays and demonstrations presented by local community organizations and youth oriented programs. Free food will be served and there will be a drawing for prizes. This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. Join us in spending the evening, "Giving Crime & Drugs a Going Away Party".

This event is sponsored in conjunction with the National Association of Town Watch, and locally by the Mason City Community Policing Advisory Board along with the Mason City Police Department. The event will be held rain or shine.



BUILD A BETTER WORLD™

Readers ages 0-18 are encouraged to register for this educational, fun, FREE Summer Reading Program offered by the MCPL Youth Services Department. This year's program will run from May 30-July 8th. Enjoy story times, crafts, yoga classes, contests, reading incentives, special performers, an outdoor obstacle course, a scavenger hunt, a roller skating party, and much more! Kids and teens who participate keep track of their reading and earn prizes as they reach their goals. Everyone that completes their reading log receives a book and an entry into the grand prize drawing of their choice. This year's special performers include The Zoo Man and his live animals, ventriloquist Kevin Horner, magician Jeff Quinn, IPTV's Dan Wardell, and musician Duke Otherwise! Last year, participants in the Summer Reading Program read 681,000 minutes! Let's make it over 700,000 in 2017! Register for our awesome, educational, and free Summer Reading Program at www.mcpl.org any time after May 1, 2017 or at the Youth Services desk any time after May 30, 2017. Questions? Call 641.421.3671.



THE GROWTH OF OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS

This marks the 5th season of our community gardens. We currently have over 65 plots over two locations: Garden Acres (900 block of South Kentucky Avenue) and Willow Creek (1st ST SW and Madison Avenue). Last year, gardeners reported a harvest of over 5,500 lbs. Community gardens are an important community resource and provide an opportunity for folks to grow their own food, socialize in a community of peers with similar interests, and pursue their passion of gardening. The gardens are organized through a partnership between Blue Zones Project and the ISU Cerro Gordo Extension and Outreach Office.

Gardeners can reserve seasonal plots of two different sizes: a 20'x20' for \$40 or a 20'x40' for \$60, which covers the cost of water and garden events. Each gardener is responsible for supplies including seeds/plants, fertilizer and equipment. Fencing is

allowed at the gardener's expense and must remain inside the staked area.

At the end of the growing season, gardeners are responsible for clearing their plot of all plant material and leaving the plot as it was found in the spring. Failure to do so could result in termination of your plot.

If you are interested in learning more about our Community Gardens, please contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Office at 641-423-0844.

BIKE TO A HEALTHIER MASON CITY!

Did you know riding a bicycle at moderate speed burns approximately 235 calories per half hour? Just think of the impact you could make on your well-being by choosing the bike over your car a couple times a week!

Here in Mason City, we continue to improve the walk-ability and bike-ability of our community by the implementation of our Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Last year 4.25 miles of new trails were established in the City, with continued progress this upcoming season, increasing our community's ability to safely ride to work, shop, and play. The Active Living and Transportation Commission is tasked with providing recommendations for land-use, waterways, and transportation systems that best support active living while promoting the aesthetic inspiration of our rural American Culture.

May is National Bike Month, Bike to School Day is Wednesday, May 10th and Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 19th. Blue Zones Project also partners with Cerro Gordo Public Health and the Mason City Police Department to host bicycle classroom education for 3rd grade students at Mason City Community and Newman Catholic Schools on May 12, followed by a Bike Rodeo on May 13.

Biking isn't a one-month-a-year activity! Take advantage of our trail system year-round and encourage our local businesses to have bicycle racks available by using them whenever possible. Mobile bike racks are available at the Blue Zones Project office for use at events. Don't forget that helmet - wearing a bicycle helmet reduces the risk of serious head injury in crashes by as much as 85%.

For more information regarding biking in Mason City, contact Blue Zones Project-Mason City at 641-424-7181.



NEW CREMATION GARDEN AT ELMWOOD CEMETERY

The new Grandview Garden section at the Cemetery was developed for the burial of cremated remains. The plots in this section are smaller and less costly which can make the burials less expensive for families.

The Grandview Garden overlooks an expansive area of the grounds including the pond. Six flower beds were established last fall that encircle the area to provide a sense of belonging and colorful flowering plants throughout the warm seasons. A sculptured marble angel on the Mumby family monument creates a sacred atmosphere and adds a peaceful feeling to this unique setting.

Stop by the Cemetery office for more information on this exciting new option for cremations or call us at 641-421-3687.

New Faces



Alex Avery started with the City of Mason City on December 7, 2016 as a Swing Worker in the Operations & Maintenance Department. Alex is a graduate from Ventura High School and North Iowa Area Community College. Thank you for joining us!



Dan Broers started with the City of Mason City on February 6, 2017 as a Utilities Equipment Operator in the Operations & Maintenance Department. Dan brings with him experience in O&M from working for the City of West Des Moines. Welcome aboard!



Chad Brouwer started with the City of Mason City on February 27, 2017 as a Refuse Collector in the Operations & Maintenance Department. Chad is a NIACC graduate and joins the City from Overhead Door. Congratulations!



Daniel Kamm joined the City of Mason City Operations and Maintenance Department on February 1, 2017. Dan was previously employed with ProBuild and also enjoys coaching football for Mason City High School. Thank you for joining us!



Jose Ochoa joined the City of Mason City February 9, 2017 as a Part-time Transit Bus Driver. Jose previously worked as a Probation/Parole Officer for the Department of Corrections and is looking forward to working with the City. Thank you for joining us!



Robert Sliger joined the City of Mason City on January 6, 2017 as a Transit Bus Driver. Bob was also one of our seasonal employees in the Street Division in 2016. Thank you for joining us!

CITY COUNCIL GOALS 2017

- Provide for a safe and healthy community
- Commitment of Excellence in Government Services
- Premier Economic Development Location in Midwest

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2017

One to Two Years

- Execute River City Renaissance Reinvestment District
- Implement High Line Trail
- Complete Visioning Process
- Propose Adoption of a Capital Improvement Levy
- Continue Nuisance Abatement and Beautification Programs
- Build Relationships and Partnerships with Community

Three to Five Years

- Replace aging workforce
- Review water rates
- South Port

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor: Eric Bookmeyer
(641) 421-3600 (City Hall)
mayor@masoncity.net

At-Large: Bill Schickel
(641) 512-4502
schickelatlarge@masoncity.net

At-Large: Paul Adams
(641) 525-0378
adamsatlarge@masoncity.net

First Ward: John Lee
(641) 420-7922
leewardone@masoncity.net

Second Ward: Travis Hickey
(641) 423-4565
hickeywardtwo@masoncity.net

Third Ward: Brett Schoneman
(641) 423-0500
schonemanwardthree@masoncity.net

Fourth Ward: Janet Solberg
(641) 425-0749
solbergwardfour@masoncity.net

Calendar of Events

May 2017

- 1 Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 4 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 6 Marion Mahoney Griffin Exhibition opening reception, MacNider Museum
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 10 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 12 36th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show opens, MacNider Museum
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 16 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 18 Kids' Club @ MacNider Museum, 6:30 pm
- 25-29 Band Festival weekend
- 29 City offices closed
- 29 Memorial Day ceremony, TBD, Elmwood Cemetery
- 31 Sanitation make-up day for May 30
- 30 Lunch 'n' Learn: Topic TBA, MacNider Museum, 12 Noon

June 2017

- 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 3 MacNider Art Museum's Saturday 9 am Architectural Walking Tours begin
- 5 Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 10 MacNider Art Festival, 9 am- 5pm
- 10 Memorial Day decorations must be removed from Cemetery
- 10 MacNider Arts Festival & Art Market
- 12 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 14 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 20 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 24 Annual Cannonball Day, East Park

July 2017

- 3 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 4 City offices closed
- 5 Sanitation make-up day for July 4
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 15 Historic Day at Elmwood Cemetery
- 15 36th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show closes, MacNider Museum
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 18 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 20 Kids Club at MacNider Museum, 6:30-7:30 pm
- 21-22 Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park
- 28 Hava Hagenbarth Exhibition begins, MacNider Museum

August 2017

- 7 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 4:15 pm
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 pm
- 1 34th Annual National Night Out Event, North Iowa Events Center, 5 pm
- 1 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm
- 3 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 pm
- 8 Park & Recreation Board, 6 pm
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 pm
- 9 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 pm
- 10 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 am
- 14 Airport Commission, 4 pm
- 15 Library Board, 4:15 pm
- 15 Museum Board, 7 pm
- 15 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 pm

This calendar is subject to change.